

Abstract

The present invention relates to a method of manufacturing an optical element by press molding in a pressing mold a heat-softened molding material such as a glass material to form a glass element, and then forming an optically functional film such as an antireflective film thereon. The method of manufacturing an optical element comprises: press molding a heat-softened molding material in a pressing mold to form an optical element of desired shape, and forming an antireflective film on the surface of the optical element obtained, wherein the antireflective film is formed on the optical element having a surface free energy of greater than or equal to 60 mJ/m^2 . The other method of manufacturing an optical element comprises: press molding a heat-softened molding material in a pressing mold to form an optical element of desired shape, and forming an antireflective film on the surface of the optical element obtained, wherein the optical element is subjected to UV ozone cleaning, or plasma cleaning prior to forming the antireflective film.